

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 135940

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: DAYAN REMARKS MAY 25

1. YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH DAYAN BEFORE SUNDAY
CABINET MEETING TO REGISTER OUR CONCERNS ABOUT REMARKS HE
MADE IN KNESSET MAY 25 ON PEACE PROCESS. IN TALKING WITH
DAYAN, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO SPEAK FRANKLY WITH HIM ABOUT
DAMAGE SUCH REMARKS CAN CAUSE PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
WE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT IN HEAT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE
MINISTERS' REMARKS CANNOT ALWAYS REFLECT COMPLETE ACCURACY
AND BALANCE OF PREPARED STATEMENTS. BUT DAYAN'S REMARKS
MAY 19 CANNOT, IT SEEMS TO US, BE EXPLAINED SOLELY ON THIS
BASIS.

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2. TO EGYPTIANS, AND FOR THAT MATTER IN U.S. EYES, TACK
DAYAN TOOK IN KNESSET WILL APPEAR AS AN EFFORT TO MISREPRE-
SENT FACTS OF SITUATION IN SUCH WAY AS TO SHIFT ONUS FOR
NEGOTIATING IMPASSE COMPLETELY ONTO SADAT. THIS IS NOT
REPEAT NOT HOW WE VIEW PRESENT STATE OF PLAY. FROM OUR
PERSPECTIVE WE HAVE PUT CERTAIN QUESTIONS TO GOI TO WHICH

IT HAS AGREED TO GIVE US A RESPONSE. AS DAYAN WILL RECALL WE AGREED TO APPROACH SADAT FOR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WHEN ISRAEL INDICATES IT IS PREPARED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OUR QUESTIONS. FURTHERMORE, PUTTING PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT

ON QUESTION OF WHETHER SADAT IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FOR HUSSEIN CAN ONLY EMBARRASS SADAT, MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, AND CARRY RISK THAT HE WILL FEEL NEED TO REACT PUBLICLY IN MANNER THAT IN TURN COULD HAVE EFFECT OF REDUCING HIS NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY.

3. NEXT POINT IS THAT, IN ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL TO DAYAN, WE GAVE HIM OUR VIEWS OF SADAT'S POSITION ON DAYAN'S QUESTIONS, BASED ON EARLIER TALKS WITH SADAT. OUR VIEWS WERE CONVEYED IN CONFIDENCE AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTED SADAT'S ANSWERS TO DAYAN'S QUESTIONS, AS DAYAN'S REMARKS IN KNESSET SUGGESTED. WE SAW THIS AS PART OF OUR PRIVILEGED DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH ISRAEL, AND VIEWS WE CONVEYED ABOUT SADAT'S POSITION SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INTRODUCED IN CABINET DISCUSSION AS REPRESENTING SADAT'S ANSWERS. IF ANY OF THIS LEAKED OUT OF CABINET DISCUSSION, IT WOULD ONLY COMPOUND PROBLEM ALREADY CREATED BY DAYAN'S STATEMENTS IN KNESSET.

4. FINALLY, TO EXTENT OUR OWN ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS IS
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INACCURATELY PORTRAYED (E.G., THAT WE REFUSED EGYPTIAN REQUEST TO PASS ITS PROPOSALS TO ISRAEL), WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE PUBLIC CLARIFICATION TO STRAIGHTEN RECORD AND MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY. THIS CAN ONLY HAVE EFFECT OF RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP, SOMETHING NEITHER OF US WANTS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO AN EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL, SUBJECT WHICH IS ALSO EMERGING IN ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS IN HIGHLY INACCURATE FORM, YOU SHOULD TELL DAYAN THAT EGYPTIANS UNDER OUR URGING HAVE GIVEN US SEVERAL PAPERS SETTING FORTH THEIR VIEWS AND SEEKING OUR REACTION. WE HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THESE PAPERS, HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS DIRECTED TOWARD MAKING THEM MORE REALISTIC NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTS, AND ARE CONTINUING OUR EXCHANGES WITH EGYPT ON THIS SUBJECT. WHEN SADAT ASKS US TO TRANSMIT HIS IDEAS TO ISRAEL WE WILL OF COURSE DO SO. VANCE

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